

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-04 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07
SIG-02 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:VC
APPROVED BY EA/P:MSMITH
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NSC ELECTRONICALLY FOR MR. GLEYSTEN

----- 071227

R 091657Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
GOVGUAM
TREASURY

UNCLAS STATE 299438

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 9 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. THAILAND/VN

THAI INTERIOR MINISTER SAMAK REPEATED TO REUTER'S FREEMAN THURS ALLEGATIONS HE MADE AT BANGKOK PRESS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY--THAT VN LOOKING FOR CHANCE INVADE THAILAND ON FEB 15. SAID MEETING HAS BEEN HELD BETWEEN PRO-HANOI VN REFUGEES AND LEFTWING THAI STUDENTS AT WHICH DECIDED ORGANIZE THAI INDUSTRIAL UNREST, PAVE WAY FOR INVASION. SAMAK ADDED THAT FEB 15 CHOSEN BECAUSE IS HEIGHT OF DRY SEASON; SAID HE'S ISSUING WARNING SO THAT "WORLD KNOWS. THEN LET US SEE WHETHER THE VIETS DENY IT " (REUTER SINGAPORE).

2. KOREA

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WSTAR REPORTS JUSTICE DEPT SUBPOENAS TONGSNG PARK TO APPEAR BEFORE GRAND JURY. WANTS HIM TO LAY OUT DETAILS OF GIFT-GIVING. JUSTICE AND PARK'S LAWYER REFUSE TO COMMENT. INASMUCH AS PARK IS IN ENGLAND AND IS A FOREIGN NATIONAL

IT STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT CONTEMPT CITATION AND EXTRADITION FEASIBLE IF HE REFUSES TO COMPLY (ALSO REPRINTED CHITRIB).

ALL MAJOR PAPERS REPORT SEOUL ROKG STATEMENT DEMANDING RETURN OF KIM SANG KEUN. WP (SAAR) CHITRIB AND PHINQ DEAL EXTENSIVELY WITH ROK STATEMENT. SAAR ALSO NOTES ROK ANGER OVER BLUE HOUSE BUGGING STORY. NYT (HALLORAN) AND BALTIMORE SUN (TREWITT) COVER STORY FROM DOS PERSPECTIVE, NOTING SPOKESMAN'S STRONG DENIAL OF ROKG CHARGES. HALLORAN NOTES DOS OFFICIALS DECLINE TO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE EFFECT ON US/ROK RELATIONS. SAYS INFO MINISTER KIM SEUNG JIN BELIEVED TO BE SOURCE OF STATEMENT. TREWITT SAYS SOME DIPLOMATS WORRY OVER POSSIBLE BACKLASH WHICH COULD DIMINISH SUPPORT FOR ROKG. OTHERS SEE POSSIBILITY FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY BY INCOMING ADMINISTRATION AS IT DECIDES WHAT TO DO ABOUT ROK COMMITMENT.

STAR, TIMES, WPOST, AND WSJ ALL REPORT SEC INVESTIGATION OF BRIBERY IN SALES OF MIL EQUIPMENT TO ROK. REPORT SEC INVESTIGATING SALES BY "E SYSTEMS" THROUGH TWO KOREAN BUSINESS AGENTS WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF BRIBING US CONGRESSMEN. THE TWO BUSINESS AGENTS FOR KOREAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE (KRI), ONE OF WHOM IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WERE SUBPOENAED TO TESTIFY IN AUGUST. SEC NOW APPLYING FOR COURT ORDER FORCING THEM TO DO SO. WP STORY SAYS E SYSTEMS CONTACTED AMEMBASSY IN 1973 WHICH SENT THEM LIST OF ABOUT HALF DOZEN KOREAN BUSINESS AGENTS IN US AND KRI CHOSEN BY THE US COMPANY.

LAT REPRINTS REUTER STORY THAT US FORCE LEVEL DROPPED BELOW 40,000 FOR ONLY THE SECOND TIME SINCE THE WAR.

NYT CARRIES SPECIAL REPORTING KOREAN STUDENTS PROTEST OVER ALLEGED BRIBERY BY ROKG IN US. NOTES MANIFESTO ISSUED WHICH STATES BRIBERY GREAT EMBARRASSMENT TO KOREAN PEOPLE. STUDENT PROTEST REPORT ALSO APPEARS IN SAAR, UNCLASSIFIED

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CHITRIB AND PHINQ STORIES NOTED ABOVE.

3. PHILIPPINES

MARCOS ASSURED PAPAL NUNCIO WEDNESDAY THAT GOP WILL IMPROVE COORDINATION WITH RC CHURCH. AT SAME TIME, HE SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY FILING CHARGES AGAINST SOME 18 PRIESTS/RC LAYMEN WHO WERE QUESTIONED ON OPERATIONS OF 2 RADIO STATIONS/2 WEEKLIES (NYT SPEC).

UNDER NEW MARCOS DECREE, ANY QUALIFIED FILIPINOS WHO DO NOT VOTE IN FUTURE ELECTIONS/REFERENDA MAY FIND THEMSELVES UNDER HOUSE ARREST OR WORKING ON BUILDING PROJECTS (REUTER MANILA).

4. AUSTRALIA

US NAVY SEC MITTENDORF ARRIVED CANBERRA THURS FOR TALKS WITH FRASER, KILLEN, OTHER DEFENSE OFFICIALS. GOA OFFICIALS SAID MITTENDORF EXPECTED DISCUSS TIMING REPLACEMENT OF 12 ANTI-SUB AIRCRAFT DESTROYED/BADLY DAMAGED IN LAST WEEKEND'S NOWRA FIRE; ANZUS PACT AND SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE INDIAN OCEAN ALSO EXPECTED BE DISCUSSED (REUTER CANBERRA).

JOC (CANBERRA) REPORTS BIGGEST AUSSIE SHIPBUILDING UNDERTAKING, NEWCASTLE DOCKYARD, EXPECTED BEGIN CLOSING DOWN OPERATIONS BY YEAR'S END.

WHITLAM-CREATED INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION REPORT IS CRITICAL OF SUBSIDIES IN ARTS; CRITICS CHARGE BOTH ITS CRITERIA/FINDINGS RUN COUNTER NATIONAL TREND DEVELOPED OVER PAST 20 YEARS. CSM'S VICKERS (SYDNEY) NOTES QUESTION MANY ASKING IS WHY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION ASKED PREPARE REPORT ON ARTS IN FIRST PLACE.

5. JAPAN

CHIEF CABINET SEC IDE TOLD NEWSMEN WED MIKI'S RESIGNATION MAY BE PART DRAFT PROGRAM FOR PARTY REFORMS WHICH PM PLANS SUBMIT LATER THIS WEEK. IDE SAID MIKI FELT LDP EXECS WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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BE MORE INCLINED ACCEPT REFORM PLAN IF ACCOMPANIED BY HIS RESIGNATION (CULLISON, JOC). JAMESON (LAT 12/7) REPORTS PARTY SEC UCHIDA CALLED MIKI MONDAY NIGHT, RECOMMENDED HE STEP DOWN. MASS MEDIA CALLS RESIGNATION "INEVITABLE."

CSM'S OKA REPORTS MIKI HAS AGREED STEP DOWN; BUT ACCORDING "ONE SOURCE WHO SPENT SEVERAL HOURS CLOSETED" W/PM, MIKI WILL FIGHT FOR REFORM PROPOSALS EVEN AT COST PARTY SPLIT. THOUGH FUKUDA LIKELY SUCCEED MIKI, SOME SPECULATION SITUATION MAY CHANGE SO RAPIDLY AS TO GIVE OHIRA OR HOUSE SPEAKER MAEO NOMINATION.

TOKYO PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE 12/8 SEARCHED HOME/OFFICES BUSINESS TYCOON KENKI OSANO, REMAINING KEY FIGURE IN LOCKHEED SCANDAL (TAKAYAMA, SUN; REUTER, NYT; WP). PINIONS OFFERED BY DIVERSE GROUP GOVT/INDUSTRY/ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS BEFORE JOINT FIELD HEARING SENATE INTERIOR/COMMERCE CMTE AGREE THAT FOR SHORT TERM, ANY OIL SURPLUS TO W COAST NEEDS SHOULD BE SHIPPED TO JAPAN. CHRMN COMMERCE SUBCMTE ON OIL/GAS PRODUCTION/DISTRIBUTION ADLAI STEVENSON FAVORS EXPORT, TELLS REPORTERS WILL "PROBABLY" REQUIRE LEGISLATION BEFORE CAN BE IMPLEMENTED (FISHER, LAT 12/8).

TRANSPORT MINISTRY ORDERS JAL/NIPPON AIRWAYS REPLACE DEFECTIVE ENGINE PARTS IN BOEING 727/737 JETS (REUTER, TOKYO).

SEA CONTAINERS INC/NIPPON KOKAN SIGN LETTER OF INTENT FOR CONSTRUCTION 4 CONTAINER SHIPS, WHICH WILL BE AMONG LARGEST AFLOAT, AT COST 34 MIL DOLS (DAVIS, JOC).

TAKAYAMA (SUN) NOTES JAPAN'S PUBLIC TELEPHONE CORP SPONSORS NUMBER PHONE SERVICES RANGING FROM STOCK EXCHANGE QUOTES TO BIRTH CONTROL/SEX LIFE CONSULTATION.

LARSEN (LAT 12/7), IN LENGTHY ARTICLE, INTERVIEWS/SOLICITS REFLECTIONS FROM PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS.

6. ADD THAILAND/VN

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OFFICIAL VOICE OF VN RADIO THURS REJECTED AS "ABSURDITY" CLAIM THAT HANOI PLANNING INVADE THAILAND IN 2 MONTHS. CHARGED SAMAK'S STATEMENT MADE TO JUSTIFY POSSIBLE THAI ATTEMPTS REOPEN US MIL BASES IN THAILAND, "THEIR EXTREMELY REACTIONARY DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY," AND SAID THAIS ALSO WANT "PLEAD FOR MORE DOLLARS AND WEAPONS FROM THEIR US MASTER." RADIO SAID HANOI'S RELS WITH BANGKOK BEING CONDUCTED UNDER POLICY RECENTLY ENUMERATED BY NGUYEN DUY TRINH, WHICH REAFFIRMS VN RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE/ SOVEREIGNTY/TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OTHER NATIONS, VN'S NON-INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. SUN'S WU (HK) OBSERVES PRC'S LAUNCHING SATELLITE TUES CARRIED BOTH POL/MIL SIGNIFICANCE AMID MIL ESTABLISHMENT ACCUSATIONS THAT "GANG OF FOUR" HAD INTERFERED WITH DEFENSE INDUSTRY'S SPACE/NUKE DEVELOPMENTS.

BUTTERFIELD (NYT HK) POINTS OUT THAT ALTHOUGH GENERAL STAFF'S CHARGES AIMED AT "GANG OF FOUR," THEY MAY WELL HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST MAO, SINCE OPPOSITION TO ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION/PLACING POLITICS BEFORE PROFESSIONALISM/ OUSTER CAREER OFFICERS WERE SOME OF MAO'S BASIC POLICIES. SEES DEVELOPMENT AS ONE OF SEVERAL SIGNS NEW PRC LEADERS QUIETLY MOVING TO REVERSE SOME OF MAO'S POSITIONS.

MATHEWS (WP HK) NOTES PRC HAS RELEASED LENGTHY REPORT ON ARMY TROUBLE THAT APPEARS PART OF MAJOR EFFORT JUSTIFY MORE FUNDS FOR ILL-EQUIPPED PLA.

MIDDLETON (NYT PEKING) OBSERVES HOW EXPANDING BUT STILL BACKWARD PRC ECONOMY RELIES TO CONSIDERABLE DEGREE ON MAN-

POWER IN INDUSTRY/AGRIC.

8. KOREA

BUCHANAN (NYDN, CHITRIB) SUGGESTS CARTER CONSIDER NAMING OUTSIDE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, "REPUBLICAN" LIKE "ARCHIE COX," TO HEAD INVESTIGATION ALLEGED KOREAN INFLUENCE-PEDDLING ON CAPITOL HILL. BUT WARNS US SHOULD BE AWARE "REAL DANGER" EXISTS OF "PERMANENT DAMAGE" US-ROK RELS. BELIEVES PULLOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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US TROOPS, AS CARTER "FOOLISHLY" ADVOCATED LAST SPRING, WOULD BE INVITATION NK INSTIGATE 2ND KOREAN WAR, RESULTING IN COMPLETE SK MILITARIZATION/NEW CRACKDOWN ON POL DISSENT.

SF CHRON (12/2) ASKS WHY HAS TAKEN JUSTICE DEPT/CONGRESS SO LONG GET KOREAN BRIBERY SCANDAL OUT IN OPEN. WONDERS IF FBI "DRAGGING ITS FEET A BIT" BECAUSE POSSIBILITY 20 PCT HOUSE MEMBERS INVOLVED. CONCLUDES IF NEITHER FBI NOR CONGRESS TAKES ON TASK, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

CONRAD CARTOON (12/7 LAT) SHOWS CONGRESS FRANTICALLY FLEEING FROM HOUSE FLOOR. CAPTION READS, "MR. KIM SANG KEUN WILL NOW CALL THE ROLL."

SANDERS CARTOON (12/4 CHI S-T) DEPICTS 5 WORRIED-LOOKING CONGRESSMEN, ONE SAYING, "THIS CONCERN OVER SOUTH KOREA IS FRAUGHT WITH PERIL, GENTLEMEN. IF WE PULL OUR TROOPS OUT OVER THERE, THEY MAY PULL THEIR BRIBERY TEAM OUT OF WASHINGTON."

9. VIETNAM

LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL (11/17) BELIEVES US' VETO VN'S ADMISSION INTO UN "HAS FURTHER ERODED" UN'S EFFECTIVENESS, MAY SET BACK DATE WHEN VN "FINALLY GIVES US" MIA LIST. STATES "EFFECTIVE DIPLOMACY" NEEDED ACHIEVE BREAKTHROUGH, AND UN STILL COULD BE MOST USEFUL "ADDITIONAL ARENA" FOR IT.

ADDRESSING SF COMMONWEALTH CLUB 11/19, FORMER ARMY COS WESTMORELAND TERMED US CONDUCT IN VN "SHABBY PERFORMANCE," CAUSTICALLY CRITICIZED ACTION POL LEADERS/ANTI-WAR PROTESTERS/MEDIA DURING WAR. SAID IDEA AIDING VN "LUDICROUS." ALSO BELIEVES CARTER WILL CHANGE MIND ON CUTTING DEF BUDGET ONCE HE HAS ALL FACTS. ADDED JAPAN GIVEN "FREE RIDE" IN PACIFIC, MUST PICK UP "GREATER PORTION OF THE PRICE TAG" (SF CHRON 11/20).

10. GENERAL

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FURTHER DISCUSSING MANSFIELD'S TUES BREAKFAST WITH NEWSMAN, LAT'S AVERILL (12/8) REPORTS SEN DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBLY ACCEPTING DIPLOMATIC POST IN PRC UNDER CARTER, BUT SAID HAS NOT BEEN ASKED TAKE IT. MANSFIELD REPEATED RECOMMENDATION US ACT PROMPTLY TO ESTABLISH FORMAL RELS WITH PEKING; CONCEDED THIS WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULT DOMESTIC POL PROBLEMS, BUT FELT LONGER WE WAIT, MORE DIFFICULT IT IS; SAID HE WANTS PRC "VEER MORE CLOSELY TO US" RATHER THAN TO SOVIET; VOICED DOUBT PEKING STRONGLY INTERESTED IN IMMEDIATE ACQUISITION TAIWAN, MORE INTERESTED IN RECOGNITION SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE PRINCIPLE.

ON US-SK RELS, MANSFIELD SAID HE KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT "KOREAN LOBBY," HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY SENS BEING INVOLVED. DECLARED SEOUL-FREE-TRIP OFFER TO HIM AND HUGH SCOTT NOT MADE BY ROKG, BUT THROUGH NON-KOREAN MIDDLEMAN, WHOM HE DECLINED IDENTIFY.

JANEWAY (WSTAR 12/8), DISCUSSING "DOMINO THEORY," SAYS US LEARNED HARD WAY THAT THEORY DID NOT APPLY TO ANY GRAND STRATEGY ADVERTISED FOR VN FIGHTING. ASSERTS SAIGON "WAS FOREDOOMED ALL ALONG"; BUT WHEN "INEVITABLE HAPPENED, NOTHING ELSE FELL ALONG WITH IT." BUT WARNS DOMINO THEORY IS REAL DANGER IN WORLD'S CURRENCY MARKETS: JAPAN NO LONGER WORLDS APART FROM US, AND AUSTRALIA CLOSE ENOUGH TO JAPAN TO RATE AS HER PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS. SAYS AUSSIE ECON PLIGHT NOT ISOLATED, JUST HIT ON BOUNCE FROM DISASTER WHICH STRUCK JAPAN--WHOSE ECON TROUBLES DEEPENING. MAINTAINS DAY OF RECKONING HAS FINALLY ARRIVED FOR AUSSIES, FATED CONTINUE UNTIL JAPAN RECOVERS. SEES INDONESIA AMONG STATES LINED UP TO JOIN DEVALUATION PARADE.

11. ADD NEWS - KOREA

SK INFO MIN KIM SUNG-JIN DEMANDED THURS THAT US SAY PUBLICLY HETHER AMERICAN AGENCIES HAD BUGGED PRESIDENTIAL MANSION, AS REPORTED BY WP IN OCT. DECLARED SUCH ACTS, IF COMMITTED, WOULD "CAST DOUBT ON" US MORALITY, ADVERSELY AFFECT US/SK FRIENDLY RELS. ADDED IF NO EARLY US PUBLIC CLARIFICATION, ROKG WILL CONDUCT OWN INVESTIGATION, TAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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"APPROPRIATE MEASURE" IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT LAWS/REGULATIONS IF INQUIRY SHOWED SUCH ACTS DID TAKE PLACE (REUTER SEOUL). ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 16 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE299438
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:VC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760456-0134
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761293/baaaeqxq.tel
Line Count: 322
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <07 Jan 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 9 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
MOSCOW INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
GOVGUAM
TREASURY
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006